February 3, 1956

BUSINESS STATISTICS

A WEEKLY SUPPLEMENT TO THE SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS

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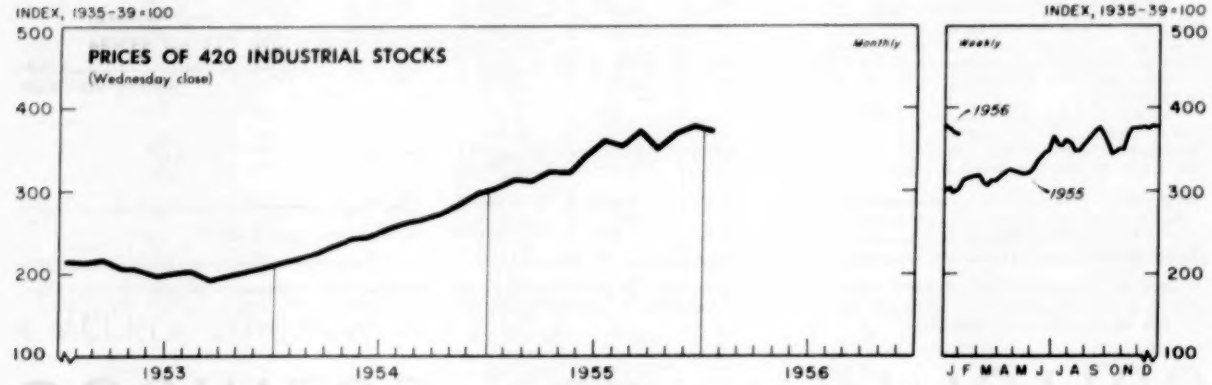
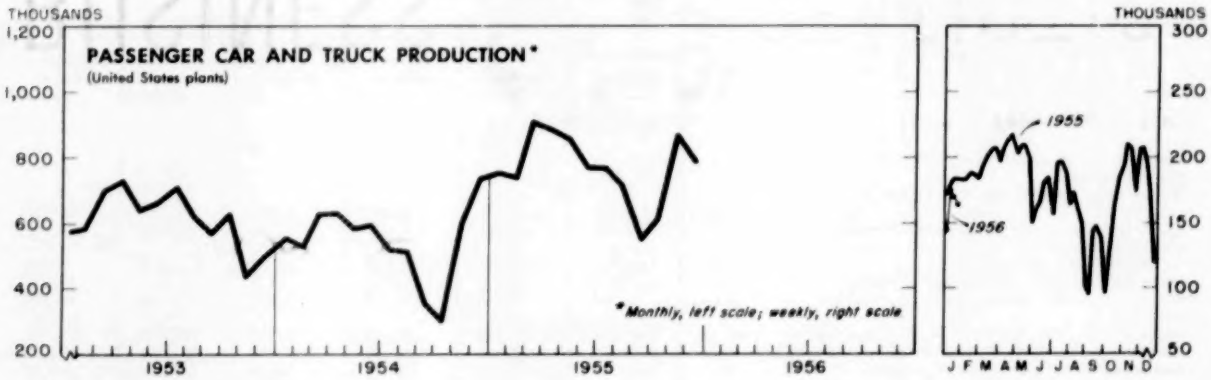
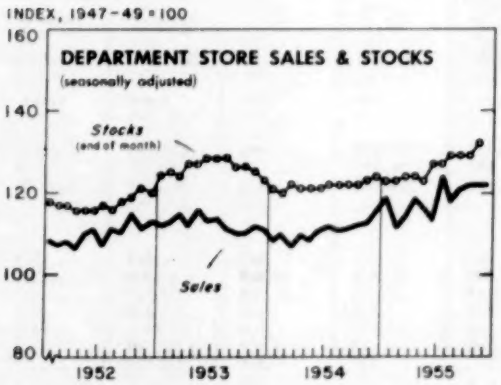
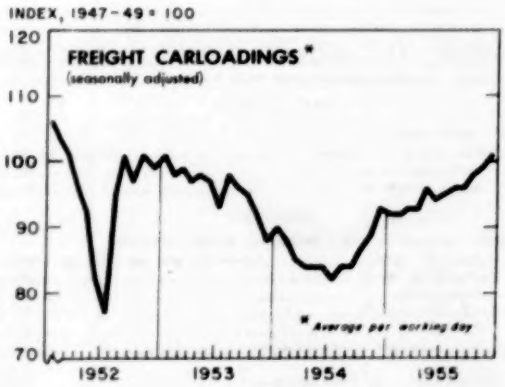
SELECTED BUSINESS INDICATORS









WEEKLY BUSINESS STATISTICS[1]

ITEM	1955		1956			
	Jan. 22	Jan. 29	Jan. 7	Jan. 14	Jan. 21	Jan. 28
Commodity prices, wholesale:						
All commodities.....1947-49=100..	.....	*110.1	111.8	111.7	111.5	111.6
Farm products.....do....	.....	*92.5	85.6	84.6	83.9	84.6
Foods, processed.....do....	.....	*103.8	98.5	98.5	98.1	98.6
All other.....do....	.....	*115.2	119.8	119.9	119.9	119.8
22 commodities 2/.....do....	91.0	91.7	90.2	89.8	88.3	88.8
Department store sales.....do....	95	87	94	104	98	.....
Insured unemployment, total.....thous..	2,215	2,195	1,575	1,577	.....	.....
State programs.....do....	1,976	1,958	1,441	1,441	.....	.....
Finance:						
Currency in circulation 3/.....mil. of dol..	29,958	29,786	31,033	30,749	30,474	30,254
Federal Reserve bank credit outstanding, total 3/....do....	25,482	24,942	26,936	26,375	25,872	25,840
Member bank reserve balances 3/.....do....	19,066	19,074	19,464	19,453	19,136	19,017
Excess reserves, estimated 3/.....do....	793	645	601	730	568	492
Federal Reserve reporting member banks in leading cities:4/						
Demand deposits, adjusted.....mil. of dol..	58,368	58,716	58,384	58,421	58,572	.....
Time deposits, except Government.....do....	21,456	21,467	21,639	21,583	21,544	.....
Loans and investments (adjusted), total.....do....	85,404	85,684	86,513	85,710	85,467	.....
U. S. Government obligations.....do....	36,602	36,441	29,957	29,686	29,509	.....
Commercial, industrial, and agr. loans (gross)...do....	22,083	21,994	26,643	26,396	26,322	.....
Real-estate loans (gross).....do....	7,238	7,263	8,135	8,127	8,150	.....
Failures, industrial and commercial.....number..	265	255	198	245	269	284
Bond yields, domestic corporate (Moody's) 3/.....percent..	3.15	3.16	3.33	3.32	3.30	3.29
Stock prices,480 stocks (Stand. & Poor's) 4/..1935-39=100..	265.6	270.5	326.7	323.8	321.3	319.6
Industrials, 420 stocks.....do....	297.7	303.7	376.9	372.8	369.7	367.5
Production:						
Bituminous coal 3/.....thous. of short tons..	1,423	1,473	1,854	1,767	1,757	.....
Electric power, by utilities.....mil. of kw.-hr..	9,981	10,003	11,057	11,594	11,521	.....
Passenger cars and trucks (Ward's).....number..	183,557	183,254	144,348	174,707	169,280	163,465
Petroleum (crude) and condensate 3/.....thous. of bbl..	6,695	6,677	7,026	7,014	7,045	.....
Steel 3/.....thous. of short tons..	2,008	2,051	2,403	2,428	2,437	2,472
Percent of capacity 3/.....	#83.2	#85.0	97.6	98.6	99.0	100.4
Freight carloadings, total.....thous. of cars..	630	642	611	710	699	.....
Miscellaneous.....do....	329	331	316	364	359	.....

1/ Data do not always cover calendar weeks. 2/ Tuesday prices. 3/ Daily average. 4/ Wednesday data. 5/ Week ended February 4, 1956: Production, 2,406 thous. short tons; operating rate, 97.7 percent. * Monthly index for January 1955. # Not comparable with 1956 rates which are based on higher capacity.

MONTHLY BUSINESS STATISTICS

ITEM	1954		1955			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
COMMODITY PRICES						
Wholesale prices of selected commodities:						
Coal, bituminous:						
Screenings, indust. use, f.o.b. car at mine dol. per short ton..	4.484	4.482	4.737	4.706	r4.722	p4.727
Large domestic sizes, f.o.b. car at mine.....do....	6.961	6.951	7.104	7.166	r7.187	p7.199
Cotton cloth:						
Print, 39-inch, 68 x 72.....cents per yd..	16.3	15.9	16.4	16.6	17.5	p18.0
Sheeting, class B, 40-inch, 48 x 44-48.....do....	16.6	16.6	17.3	17.5	17.8	p18.1
Wheat flour, short patents (Minn.)..dol. per 100 lb. sack..	6.940	6.910	6.225	6.275	r6.165	p6.070
Lumber:						
Douglas fir, dim.,No. 1, 2" x 4", R.L...dol.per M bd.ft..	83.699	82.999	89.320	89.180	r87.962	p88.094
Southern pine, boards, No.2, com., 1" x 6", R.L....do....	78.021	78.199	80.155	80.683	r81.474	p80.651
Ponderosa pine, boards, No.3, common, 1" x 8".....do....	72.07	71.96	80.74	80.13	r79.36	p79.36
Pig iron, basic (furnace).....dol. per long ton..	56.00	56.00	58.50	58.50	58.50	p58.50
Steel:						
Structural shapes (carbon), f.o.b. mill.....dol. per lb..	.0452	.0452	.0487	.0487	.0487	p.0487
Scrap,No.1,heavy melting (Pittsburgh)..dol.per long ton..	34.50	32.50	43.50	44.50	r45.50	p50.00
Gasoline, regular grade (New York).....dol. per gal..	.125	.125	.125	.130	.130	p.130
Petroleum, crude (Oklahoma-Kansas), at wells,dol. per bbl..	2.82	2.82	2.82	2.82	2.82	p2.82
Sugar, refined, granulated (New York).....dol. per lb..	.085	.085	.084	.085	.085	p.085
DOMESTIC TRADE						
Mail order and store sales:						
Total sales, 2 companies.....thous. of dol..	364,428	523,056	391,258	414,465	431,702	570,391
Montgomery Ward & Co.....do....	93,531	131,875	92,071	102,795	110,174	146,155
Sears, Roebuck & Co.....do....	290,898	391,181	299,187	311,670	321,527	424,236
EMPLOYMENT						
Labor turnover in manufacturing establishments:						
Accession rate.....monthly rate per 100 employees..	3.3	2.5	4.4	4.1	3.3	p2.4
Separation rate, total.....do....	3.0	3.0	4.4	3.5	r3.1	p2.9
Discharge.....do....	.2	.2	.3	.3	.3	p.2
Lay-off.....do....	1.6	1.7	1.1	1.2	r1.2	p1.4
Quit.....do....	1.0	.9	2.8	1.8	r1.4	p1.1
Military and miscellaneous.....do....	.1	.2	.2	.2	.2	p.2

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary.

ITEM	1954		1955			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS						
Operations on scheduled airlines: 1/						
Miles flown, revenue.....thousands..	40,497	44,365	48,394	49,201	45,592	.....
Express and freight ton-miles flown.....do....	17,359	19,697	21,366	21,526	19,257	.....
Mail, ton-miles flown.....do....	6,496	9,833	6,736	7,015	7,009	.....
Passengers carried, revenue.....do....	2,416	2,518	r3,071	3,081	2,705	.....
Passenger-miles flown, revenue.....millions..	1,281	1,426	1,692	1,674	1,453	.....
ELECTRIC POWER						
Electric power, production, total.....mil. of kw.-hr..	46,440	49,890	52,907	54,206	54,513	57,571
Electric utilities.....do....	40,209	43,449	46,335	47,367	47,751	50,715
Industrial establishments.....do....	6,231	6,441	6,572	6,839	6,762	6,856
CHEMICALS AND ALLIED PRODUCTS						
Organic chemicals, production:						
Acetic acid (synthetic and natural).....thous. of lb..	41,502	41,069	47,421	47,014	47,263	.....
Acetic anhydride.....do....	66,302	63,578	66,299	70,722	73,491	.....
Acetylsalicylic acid (aspirin).....do....	932	1,142	716	1,705	1,385	.....
Creosote oil.....thous. of gal..	8,730	10,088	9,807	r10,340	10,723	.....
DDT.....thous. of lb..	6,459	6,036	10,190	10,273	10,310	.....
Ethyl acetate (85%).....do....	7,125	5,105	7,765	7,809	6,124	.....
Ethylene glycol.....do....	56,495	54,032	84,885	84,693	75,535	.....
Formaldehyde (37% HCHO).....do....	88,716	84,910	97,092	107,005	111,181	.....
Methanol:						
Natural (100%).....thous. of gal..	163	176	190	197	186	.....
Synthetic (100%).....do....	16,464	16,974	17,590	17,698	17,206	.....
Phthalic anhydride.....thous. of lb..	24,072	28,376	30,414	31,174	29,980	.....
Synthetic plastics and resin materials, production:						
Cellulose acetate and mixed ester plastics:						
Sheets, rods, and tubes.....thous. of lb..	3,096	3,662	4,012	3,880	3,495	.....
Molding and extrusion materials.....do....	7,350	6,470	8,728	8,374	8,394	.....
Nitrocellulose sheets, rods, and tubes.....do....	316	329	396	415	451	.....
Other cellulose plastics.....do....	508	452	430	385	643	.....
Phenolic and other tar acid resins.....do....	32,893	33,010	42,221	44,619	44,663	.....
Polystyrene.....do....	36,495	35,205	50,304	r48,460	48,272	.....
Urea and melamine resins.....do....	21,281	20,344	24,280	r26,498	25,197	.....
Vinyl resins.....do....	46,532	49,773	60,968	62,159	62,200	.....
Alkyd resins.....do....	28,487	30,285	36,700	35,480	34,464	.....
Rosin modifications.....do....	10,259	9,209	12,148	12,628	11,080	.....
FOODSTUFFS AND TOBACCO						
Beer:						
Production.....thous. of bbl..	r5,938	6,486	7,252	6,432	5,775	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	6,142	6,440	7,405	6,248	6,129	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	r9,507	r9,161	10,380	10,166	9,427	.....
Distilled spirits:						
Production.....thous. of tax gal..	r20,710	r16,036	19,388	34,917	31,189	.....
Consumption for beverage purposes.....thous. of wine gal..	19,541	23,008	16,906	18,507	20,856	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....thous. of tax gal..	r15,918	10,667	13,613	17,083	16,731	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	r844,418	r840,707	834,529	832,581	833,201	.....
Whisky:						
Production.....do....	r10,703	10,286	11,189	12,863	13,538	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	8,926	6,022	7,226	9,216	8,978	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	r710,072	r707,346	717,568	717,991	719,656	.....
Rectified spirits and wines, prod.....thous. of proof gal..	r9,825	r6,233	7,382	10,156	9,930	.....
Whisky.....do....	8,868	5,504	6,383	9,013	8,761	.....
Wines and distilling materials:						
Effervescent wines:						
Production.....thous. of wine gal..	118	105	102	106	160	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	r193	229	132	191	247	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	r1,125	1,036	1,570	1,458	1,346	.....
Still wines:						
Production.....do....	20,795	3,628	19,571	72,474	43,340	.....
Tax-paid withdrawals.....do....	r13,436	12,698	11,120	13,347	13,369	.....
Stocks, end of month.....do....	r203,834	r192,399	120,826	184,011	214,698	.....
Distilling materials produced at wineries.....do....	40,197	6,212	52,431	145,546	93,598	.....
Meats, production, total.....mil. of lb..	2,026	2,120	1,977	2,121	2,254	2,340
Beef and veal.....thous. of lb..	901,498	912,239	1,021,504	999,507	970,324	961,519
Lamb and mutton.....do....	52,466	54,704	58,742	55,245	52,853	55,849
Pork, including lard.....do....	1,071,719	1,153,238	896,472	1,065,839	1,230,521	1,324,890
Lard.....do....	198,822	225,859	159,349	190,120	235,332	261,249
Coffee, visible supply.....thous. of bags..	793	799	521	528	564	831
Tobacco, manufactured products:						
Production, total.....thous. of lb..	16,983	14,556	17,388	17,395	16,179	.....
Chewing, plug, and twist.....do....	6,857	5,689	6,967	6,880	6,627	.....
Smoking.....do....	6,933	5,764	7,054	7,256	6,304	.....
Snuff.....do....	3,193	3,104	3,366	3,260	3,249	.....
Consumption (withdrawals):						
Cigarettes, small:						
Tax-free.....millions..	3,298	2,805	2,937	2,449	2,416	.....
Tax-paid.....do....	29,699	26,651	32,076	32,937	32,644	.....
Cigars, tax-paid.....thousands..	573,196	425,958	533,707	551,082	613,199	.....
Manufactured tobacco and snuff, tax-paid....thous. of lb..	16,790	14,842	16,624	16,807	16,909	.....

r/ Revised. 1/ Data for 1955 include local service operations for one carrier.

ITEM	1954		1955			
	November	December	September	October	November	December
METALS AND MANUFACTURES						
Iron ore (Lake Superior district):						
Consumption by furnaces.....thous. of long tons..	5,845	6,341	7,539	7,850	7,488	7,663
Stocks, end of month, total.....do....	49,975	44,018	45,406	49,523	51,040	44,359
At furnaces.....do....	43,065	37,427	38,459	42,167	43,718	37,539
On Lake Erie docks.....do....	6,911	6,591	6,948	7,356	7,323	6,820
Castings, gray iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....thous. of short tons..	760	745	1,151	1,113	1,062	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	997	1,074	1,253	1,310	r1,306	.....
For sale.....do....	547	564	713	714	697	.....
Castings, malleable iron:						
Orders, unfilled, for sale.....short tons..	80,686	85,064	116,636	121,261	116,981	.....
Shipments, total.....do....	70,030	80,599	87,215	90,866	99,280	.....
For sale.....do....	41,609	49,005	55,471	53,804	58,069	.....
Pig iron, production.....thous. of short tons..	5,257	5,587	6,703	6,965	6,699	6,954
Castings, steel:						
Shipments, total.....short tons..	87,659	93,547	140,843	145,674	r152,381	.....
For sale, total.....do....	64,812	69,843	107,622	110,409	116,908	.....
Railway specialties.....do....	7,742	11,489	23,594	23,745	25,635	.....
Machine tools (metal-cutting types):						
New orders.....mo. avg. shipments, 1945-47=100..	119.5	202.9	207.3	347.1	r433.3	p530.8
Shipments.....do....	179.5	203.4	195.4	204.2	r214.2	p237.1
STONE, CLAY, AND GLASS PRODUCTS						
Glass containers:						
Production.....thous. of gross..	9,305	8,538	11,234	12,173	10,557	10,166
Shipments, domestic, total.....do....	9,255	8,891	11,194	11,147	9,845	11,332
Narrow-neck food.....do....	830	767	1,746	1,348	931	1,057
Wide-mouth food.....do....	2,670	2,514	3,013	3,271	2,955	3,410
Beverage.....do....	310	506	480	411	471	708
Beer bottles.....do....	561	677	739	597	589	730
Liquor and wine.....do....	1,304	1,012	1,203	1,486	1,346	1,161
Medicinal and toilet.....do....	2,409	2,369	2,669	2,791	2,477	3,106
Chemical, household and industrial.....do....	926	757	1,015	1,003	839	920
Stocks, end of month.....do....	13,461	12,892	13,040	13,719	14,123	12,700
TEXTILE PRODUCTS						
Men's apparel, cuttings: 1/						
Tailored garments:						
Suits.....thous. of units..	1,592	2,050	1,900	1,684	1,716	1,945
Overcoats and topcoats.....do....	324	320	605	400	340	335
Trousers (separate), dress and sport.....do....	4,272	4,980	5,640	4,944	5,424	5,160
Shirts (woven fabrics), dress and sport.....thous. of doz..	1,728	1,715	1,910	1,856	1,864	1,890
Work clothing:						
Dungarees and waistband overalls.....do....	360	340	455	424	372	375
Shirts.....do....	364	265	400	384	376	390
TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT						
Motor vehicles, factory sales, total.....number..	587,785	766,185	559,962	601,256	860,845	827,159
Coaches, total.....do....	305	427	223	469	404	435
Domestic.....do....	251	337	198	385	385	410
Passenger cars, total.....do....	498,248	669,936	467,845	505,177	745,993	719,415
Domestic.....do....	477,927	643,763	459,073	491,893	720,667	695,043
Trucks, total.....do....	89,232	95,822	91,894	95,510	114,448	107,309
Domestic.....do....	72,862	79,793	76,851	81,390	98,345	103,556

r/ Revised. p/ Preliminary. 1/ Data for December 1954 and September and December 1955 cover 5 weeks; other months, 4 weeks.

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PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
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